

Town of Bedford
Conservation Commission Minutes
January 25, 2022

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at the BCTV meeting room at 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford.

7:00 PM Call to Order

Present: Patricia Grogan (Chair), Deborah Evans (member), Julie Donovan (member), William Carter (Vice Chairman, Town Council), Stephen Clough (Planning Board representative), Stephanie Jones (member), Gregory Handy (member), Kathleen Ports (Associate Planner), Becky Hebert (Planning Director).

Absent: Denise Ricciardi (Town Council alternate member).

Chair requests Ms. Ports review the agenda items:

We will approve our minutes from November 23, 2021. We have 2 dredge and fill applications to review. We have several new items to discuss for new business. We will revisit some old business and other business. We will review announcements. I don't believe we need a non-public section. Then we will adjourn.

Chair Grogan read the Mission Statement:

The mission of the Bedford, New Hampshire Conservation Commission is to protect, preserve and conserve the town's natural resources and open space land for the common good. This includes stewardship and management of conservation land, protecting wetlands and vernal pools, and the planning and acquisition of land for conservation purposes. The Commission works with landowners to administer State and town wetland regulations, and advises other town boards, such as the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment on environmental impacts and alternative considerations regarding development projects. The Conservation Commission promotes conservation activities and communicates with the citizens of Bedford on important environmental issues.

Our motto is Keeping Bedford Beautiful.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to approve the minutes of November 23, 2021 Meeting. Ms. Donovan seconds the motion. **ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous.**

Dredge and Fill Applications

Chair Grogan said moving on to dredge and fill applications, we have here the Carnevale Spa. If you want to come forward and introduce yourself.

Carnevale Spa Associates, LLC (Applicant & Owner) – Review of a NHDES Dredge and Fill Permit for approximately 1,312 sq. ft. of wetland fill for the construction of a private road to access a proposed nine-unit (elderly housing) condominium development, located at 18 Olde Bedford Way, Lots 13-40-2 & 10-50-5, Zoned CO & RA.

Mr. Jeff Kevan testifies: Good evening. I'm Jeff Kevan with TF Moran's office. We're the surveyor/civil engineer wetlands group that prepared the application and the plans. So, if you're looking at the screen that's up in front of you, Old Bedford Way runs up and down the sheet. The large building here is the Grand Hotel behind Bedford Village Inn. The land that we're talking about is this parcel behind that parking lot and this area that had a single family residence on it.

7:04 - Gregory Handy (member) arrives.

So, these two pieces are interconnected after we modify a condominium lot line. Basically, this is Lot 13-40-2. It's a 7.45 acre parcel. The back triangle land is in a Commercial Zone. The small lot up front is in the RA Residential Agricultural. What they are proposing is a development—so this is split onto 2 sheets. What's being proposed is a single family residential age-restricted 55 and older development that would have 9 residences—a private road that comes off of Old Bedford Way. Pretty much the road starts at the existing driveway that comes into the house that is in this area currently. Then it runs up the hill. You can see what we've done is mainly clustered 7 of the units at the top. Again, there's one unit in this lower area and one just behind that parking lot on the upper stage. The terrain is sloping from West to East, and it's a pretty good grade change. It's about a 90 foot grade change from the back of the property to Old Bedford Road. If you are looking at this piece, as it comes down, you can see there's a large drainage area back here—about 30 acres—that actually feed this wetland. We called this little group or cluster Wetlands 3. That's not being touched or disturbed. You can see there's a break between those wetlands, but it would flow into Wetlands 2. There was a house back here previously that had been raised and removed. That's why you're looking at—there's a 12 inch CMP pipe that runs from Wetlands 2 down to Wetlands 1. We've been on this site probably for 15 or 20 years. The previous time we've mapped these wetlands, Wetlands 1 was not jurisdictional wetland. It didn't qualify by the same wetland scientists that mapped it now. Basically, the water builds up in this small pocket, which is 25-100 square feet. It flows through this culvert and then through this little ditch/ravine down here. You can see there's a riprap outlet down at the bottom. The wetlands actually break and aren't jurisdictional wetlands actually connected to this little pocket at the bottom, but it obviously flows there. There are 3 pipes that cross Old Bedford Way that go into this parcel of land on the other side of Old Bedford Way, which is a NH DOT parcel that was used for mitigation and so forth. There's an 18- and two 15-inch pipes that cross the road here. So, if you're looking at the proposal, we're not proposing any impact to wetlands—the combination of Wetlands 3 or Wetlands 2. We've stayed away from that. We are impacting this upper finger on the lower wetlands—the ravine or ditch line that goes down. You can see as we come through, there's a pinch point here. There's this parking lot. This is the lot line for the Bedford Senior Living, and we have a narrow area to come through to get through to the back land here. We're impacting this little section of wetlands. We're leaving this piece intact.

I thought we had included a drainage area map. This just gives you a general sense. The yellow is our parcel, and this 30 acres that comes up—I'm trying to think of the name of that road—I apologize. I can't think of the name of this road here. But this is Flintlock Road, Fieldstone Road. This whole area—this 30 acres—works its way down here and then through this wetlands configuration. That's where this runoff is coming from. You can see there are some houses here, some fairly good open land back here. Then it works through this configuration on our site. What we've tried to do is avoid those wetlands as much as possible. The idea that Jack has on this development is to minimize the disturbance around the houses. He wants fairly small, tight yards—so 25-30 feet around the back—preserve as much wooded land as possible on the site. You can see, shown on this plan, the proposed tree line and how we're avoiding this. This section right here in between these two is that existing 12 inch MP. Obviously, we would disturb it or impact it—the pipe itself—when we cross it with the road. What we've done is we've created a new outlet here outside of the wetlands but could be tied in by grade to make that work. Then we bypass our roadway and bring it down and discharge it just below our impact so that this channel still sees the same amount of runoff or the same flows that it did before. We wouldn't change the water path or flow in this area at all so that we would not be impacting that lower reach or that lower section of wetlands. We're putting in a new outlet and a pipe that bypasses it. Then what we're doing is we're capturing the runoff from the development areas by swaling around the back of the houses, capturing the roadway, and we're doing an infiltration basin here at the toe of the hill. Instead of—you could have grabbed the entire drainage area and mixed all this runoff from the undeveloped portion in with the new or the developed portion—but we kept it separate so that this basically remains intact: water quality, flow, path, everything stays the same. We capture our roadway and the houses and put it into an infiltration basin here that will overflow and cross the road at the same place that it normally would, so that we're providing our storm water treatment and detention in this location.

Other areas we are proposing to revegetate—slopes and what have you. You can see here, what we're trying to do is preserve as much natural woods as possible, get some trees and vegetation in and around the houses themselves, revegetate some of these slopes so that there isn't a lot of maintenance and upkeep. We revegetate and get the vegetation on these areas, so that prior to discharge, the water goes through those and then into our infiltration basin on the other side. The site's serviced by municipal sewer and water. We have an impact of 1,312 square feet of wetlands impact. I think we've tried to minimize that impact as much as possible, but still access that back property. The wildlife—the wetland scientist described the functions and values of the wetland. It really doesn't have a lot of stormwater storage or treatment. And that, previously, he points out there was a house here and there was a house up here. With that, this area was somewhat developed in the past. It's regrown in with shrub scrub. There is some invasive species that he's filled out to have that stuff removed as we build the road. Our idea was to preserve those Wetlands 1 and 2 and preserve those as much as possible. He identified that there's some minor value in a wildlife corridor in that you have vegetation, and they normally follow a stream channel. But his report mentioned that the food source and water and the vegetation cover—or lack of vegetation cover—makes it difficult for many species. There's minor value, so he didn't think we were losing any significant value with the development of the project. So, I would turn it over to you and answer any questions you might have.

Chair Grogan asked does anyone have any questions of the applicant? Mr. Carter questions was there any thought, instead of keeping it closed between Wetland 2 and Wetland 1, to run it down the opposite side of the road so they have above-ground connection? The only place you would have to go under would be that new driveway. Was there any thought of doing that instead of just keeping it closed? Mr. Kevan answered It's just that that pinch point is so narrow, and the grades that we're trying to accommodate made that impossible for us to do. We did do similar things, like I said. The runoff

coming from offsite, we show that being captured in a swale back here and brought back to that Wetlands 2. Trying to get as much of that offsite area that is not developed or is not part of our development flowing where it always has and maintain those paths. Mr. Carter continued my main concern is Wetland 2—making sure that we don't diminish it. Mr. Kevan questioned, Wetland 2? Mr. Carter said Wetland 2, yes. Obviously, Wetland 1—the finger—we're going to catch down at the bottom—that's all in preexistence. Obviously, you've got parking lots nearby and roads and all this stuff. So, yes, catching it down there is one thing. I just want to make sure that Wetland 2 doesn't become diminished because of what we're doing to the lower wetland. And making sure that it thrives, because I would imagine Wetland 3 is your main portion of the wetland, and some of it does spill over into Wetland 2. Mr. Kevan answered yes, so you could see what we're doing with the landscaping is we're trying to grade and revegetate any of the disturbed areas adjacent to that wetland and preserve that as much as possible.

Mr. Carter asked will there be signage denoting that as a wetland? Mr. Kevan answered we can add that. Mr. Carter said it's going to be a gated community. I've been following this ever since it came through the other channels in town. Obviously, there's only going to be 7 homes up there and then the one to the side. I would really like to see anything that's done when it comes to grading—especially when it comes to snow, salt and all that kind of things. When it comes to the wintertime—I know most of these people that are probably owning these homes will probably be somewhere other than in Bedford in the wintertime, but I would really like to see us make sure that Wetland 2 is protected. Mr. Kevan commented and that this is an association—maintained by an association. You're not going to have people able to go out and say cut trees down and expand their yard area what have you or take down vegetation that we're showing here. That will all be maintained and preserved by the association. Mr. Carter inquired is there going to be a guardrail along the road or is this just going to be a ...? Mr. Kevan replied we're trying not to have very much guardrail. Mr. Carter continued well definitely signage—I would definitely like to see signage along the main part of the road. Obviously, the driveway to the house is not a concern, but anyone that's coming up there knows—and again with salt and stuff like that too—make sure we minimize. Mr. Kevan responded I think the staff brought up now what you're seeing on most projects—especially that have an alteration to terrain permit, you're talking about chloride management plans. A lot of that comes down to having certified drivers, not just somebody putting a plow on their pickup truck. The salt and sand equipment being calibrated and kept up, so that you're spreading it evenly and limiting the volume or amount used. A lot of it is also using like a brine ahead of a storm. You limit the amount of salt used. Any of that stuff that occurs on the roadway is going to come down through my infiltration basin—not get pushed off into the roadway here. Mr. Carter added because as you said, this is a 90 degree from top to bottom? Mr. Kevan continued not 90 degrees, but it is steep. Mr. Carter said a steep slope. Well, if you look at railroad, it's 5 degrees. You look at those kinds of things so, it's really—you're taking a lot of area that is right now wooded, no pavement, no houses, no nothing and now you're starting to throw concentrated in there. I just want to make sure that we're protecting. I know you've got the DOT spot down across from Old Bedford Way, but—and they've done a lot of work when they did 101—to put that detention area in there. I just want to make sure that we're keeping an eye on that Wetland 2 and making sure it just doesn't diminish itself and next thing you know, we don't have anything.

Ms. Hebert asked Jeff, is the driveway curbed as you go past Wetland 2, so the runoff from the roadway is captured in the catch basins? Is that correct? Mr. Kevan replied yes. Basically, it's all curbed. There is a concrete sidewalk that we pitch into the roadway, so as far as where it would flow, and... Mr. Carter asked that's going to keep water from coming down that way because now it has some spot to stop it and run down? Mr. Kevan said yes. So, we have catch basins with sumps that capture them. The only 2

structures we couldn't get into this system up here were these 2 basins at the bottom. What we did is we put in 2 catch basins with some storm tech units—underground units—that infiltrate as much as possible and has a little—they ended up being a 6 inch overflow that would go back. It ends up in the exact same spot the rest of it does and that's this low pocket with the 3 pipes that cross. Mr. Carter continued and I'm sure we're planning for the 5-, 10-, 20-, 100- once-in-a-lifetime storm? Mr. Kevan said yes. Alteration of terrain makes you study it up so 2-, 10-, 25-, 50-year storm events. We usually run it for the 100-year just to see what's going to happen, like you said. In this case, I have a 9 percent road. It's going downhill. Mr. Carter said yes. You're sending water downhill, and luckily there's nothing across the street on Old Bedford Way to really stop any of this. It's not a heavily-traveled road. So, it's a nice shortcut to get going down 101. Other than that, that's all the questions I have Madame Chair.

Chair Grogan asked any further questions? Ms. Jones asked I know you said the lawn sizes are going to be small. But I was concerned with any kind of runoff from those. I know that it's a community where, you said, it's going to be maintained by the development. But is there going to be any kind of mitigation or ways to make sure that there's not any kind of fertilizer or lawn runoff that's going to be going into the Wetland 2 or Wetland 3—especially Wetland 3? Mr. Kevan replied we capture—all the yard areas we're bringing into this closed system that comes down into our infiltration basin. Ms. Jones said okay. Just trying to direct it all towards that. Mr. Kevan continued what we're trying to do is we're trying to separate the stuff that can continue to flow the way it has to minimize this system at the bottom in size. So, what we did is we captured houses and their general yard areas and brought them into that closed system. Ms. Jones said okay.

Chair Grogan asked any more questions? Ms. Ports said I have a quick question. We received a letter from DES about some incomplete sections and the permit application, and I just wanted to ... Mr. Kevan said yes. We got that, and we're responding to that. Basically, Jack didn't check one of the boxes and initial it. Ms. Ports said okay. Perfect. Thanks. Mr. Kevan continued yes. We are responding. Ms. Hebert said a comment about mitigation? It was just a box to check? Mr. Kevan said the thing with mitigation, so I have a new guy that was filling this out, and not knowing what this lower section was considered when he was filling it out, he checked it as a minimum—thinking that it may be classified as a stream in some fashion. Course Danforth came back and said no, it's not a stream. It's a ditch that flows parttime. Usually, the water dissipates up at the top and doesn't really flow through. If you look at the photograph, it looks like a wooded ravine. It's not even real rocky. If it had a lot of flow, it would be eroded. So, it ended up being not a minimum, but the next level down. So, therefore, no mitigation is required. Ms. Hebert said okay. Mr. Kevan continued it changed the regs recently that if you have a stream channel, the threshold for mitigations drop down. We're getting used to that. Ms. Hebert said I was surprised by the comment, so I was like, oh—what did they change? Mr. Kevan continued if that was a stream, we would have had to go into mitigation. Ms. Hebert said okay.

Mr. Clough said I have a question, Madam Chair. So, as I understand it, the micro watershed that's created by your development is all closed. There's nothing else. It's all being funneled? Mr. Kevan said say that again, I'm sorry. Mr. Clough repeated the micro watershed of your development is all closed. In other words... Mr. Kevan answered correct. It's being captured, brought into catch basins and pipe, brought down to the infiltration basin at the bottom of the hill. Mr. Clough continued and how—can you explain to me how Wetland 2 is connected to Wetland 1 again? You said there's some type of conveyance? Mr. Kevan asked how Wetland 3 is connected? Mr. Clough clarified 2 to 1. Ms. Ports clarified Wetland 2 to Wetland 1. Mr. Kevan said okay. Currently there's a pipe that actually comes out—it runs underneath this top finger and runs over to the top of Wetlands 1. Mr. Clough asked and what was that pipe originally put there for? Mr. Kevan answered I think when they built the house up at

the top, they must have put that in. So, it's a corrugated metal pipe, fairly old. What we're doing is we're removing it in our construction area. The balance of it, we're going to plug and just fill with flowable fill so that we're not disturbing the ground to take it out. Then instead of the connection being here, the connection runs there—down these two sides here in a hard pipe. Mr. Clough said okay. So, do we know what work this—I was surprised to see that they said the only resource area project site includes only—wildlife habitat was the only one that was assessed for. I was surprised to see that because I've never seen on a functional assessment just one function. Usually—and I'm looking at this and I'm saying there's got to be groundwater recharge. Mr. Kevan answered not really. What you have is... Mr. Clough continued no groundwater recharge with a 9 percent slope? Mr. Kevan answered ledge is down, say 4 to 5 feet on an average out here. So, ledge is relatively shallow. Like I said, this wet pocket in the middle has been there for since we've been on the site. This lower finger was not jurisdictional say 5 to 10 years ago. It just evolved or I guess saw enough runoff that you developed the hydrology and vegetation for it. Chris basically follows the guidelines outlined by the State and the Federal guidelines as far as functions and values. Typically, you do get flood storage and that kind of thing. But this wet pocket doesn't do a lot of infiltration. I think that's mainly because of the ledge. He followed their guidelines and came back with—I was surprised that there was much of a wildlife. I know wildlife follows a stream channel, but because of the slope and the disturbance that had been in this general area, it would have relatively low. I would think—relatively low wildlife corridor type use. Mr. Clough said yes. There's no wells downgradient of this development? Mr. Kevan replied no. There were a couple of wells associated with BVI previously that were to the south of this. But they're not in use. BVI is now on municipal water. Mr. Clough said okay. Do you know if those wells were sealed? Mr. Kevan answered I don't know if they have been taken offline. I know there was one much further over here. It's upgrade of the hotel and off his property, but I can't tell you whether or not it's been discontinued. The use was originally for Bedford Village Inn. So, it's not being used, but I don't know if the well was filled in. Mr. Clough said but it is down gradient. It will intercept any saline-impacted groundwater. Do you know that, or? Mr. Kevan responded it's not downgrade of this development. Mr. Clough said oh. It's not downgrade? Mr. Kevan replied no. It's down, kind of off the page here. So, it's adjacent on this piece of property here. The drainage area kind of wraps around this wetlands. So, this drainage area to that area would be just below that wetland. Mr. Clough replied okay. I guess my final question would be the infiltration basin. Is there going to be maintenance of that? Mr. Kevan said yes. I think we submitted a maintenance and operations plan. If we didn't, we will. We have to have one as part of the alteration of terrain permit anyways. Mr. Clough said that's it for me. I think you and your engineers did a great job optimizing everything. Mr. Kevan said thank you.

Chair Grogan asked does anyone else have any questions? [no questions] Can I have a motion? Ms. Hebert said it would be moving to NOT object to the wetland impact as proposed. Chair Grogan asked does anyone object to the project? Mr. Carter asked we're sending this off to the ZBA or? Ms. Hebert replied to the Planning Board and DES. We would often say to object or NOT object rather than supporting a wetland fill. You can simply state you're not objecting to the wetland impact. Ms. Ports added as proposed in the submitted plans.

MOTION: Mr. Carter moves the Conservation Commission NOT object to the Dredge and Fill Permit for approximately 1,312 square feet of wetland fill for the construction of a private road and access a proposed 9 unit elderly housing condominium development located at 18 Old Bedford Way, Lot 13-40-2, and 10-50-5, zoned CO and RA. Mr. Clough seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

NH DOT's Project 43138, NH DES Dredge and Fill Permit to rehabilitate the Bowman Brook culvert underneath NH Route 114.

Chair Grogan said next, we will move on to NH DOT permit to rehabilitate the culvert underneath Route 114, Bowman Brook. Kathleen?

Ms. Ports said this project has been in the works for quite some time. DOT did quite a bit of analysis in deciding how they wanted to address this culvert. This is Market Basket. This is Donald Street here. This is New Boston Road, and this is 114. Here's the location of the crossing here. This area upstream actually has a conservation easement on it. Bowman Brook is an outstanding wetland as the Town has—we did a study on our outstanding waters in town, and this is one of them. They are proposing slip lining the culvert and doing some repair on the culvert head wall. They are only proposing some temporary wetlands impacts, and you can see this box here with the little hatch marks on either side of the culvert crossing. I don't like this mouse—sorry. So, here the main channel enters the culvert. They're going to be doing some repair on the head wall, and then there's temporary impact here. At the outlet, there's a small length of stream channel affected. But it's all temporary. Everything will be stabilized and replanted once they're done. There will be a temporary diversion structure, and that is sort of up to the contractor. But preliminarily they will pump water down this way to this culvert under the road and then back over to the other side. So that they can complete the mining work that they need to do. I can't think of anything else. There is a little access road on this side down here so that will also be subject to some tree clearing. But they are trying to minimize the extent of that work as much as possible. Again, they will have a stabilization plan for that area once they're done with construction.

Mr. Carter said to be honest with you, a little bit of cleanup in that area wouldn't hurt it. I know that's part of a walking—my wife and I do some walking around that area on this side—Tirrell Hill Road, and definitely the access between 114 and that area really definitely needs a little bit of attention anyway. I would think it would be a nice thing to do, as part of this, to clean that up. Living on New Boston, I'm fully familiar with all that area. Ms. Ports added yes. You can kind of see it. It comes through this narrow area between New Boston and 114 and then flows. Mr. Carter added and then comes back to go under. Ms. Ports continued yes, it goes back under the right-of-way, right? And then it flows across. Mr. Carter said and the work they just finished—section of 114 and 101. Ms. Ports said yes. They just did similar work, right, on Boynton Street. Mr. Carter said recapped—put a 7-inch pipe in versus—so that looks really nice, too. I was asking that question about when they were going to get it done. The following week, I drove by and here they are, spraying grass and everything down. And, of course, we had our first snow.

Chair Grogan asked any questions for Kathleen on this? Ms. Ports stated I think we want to... Chair Grogan asked do we need a motion? Ms. Ports continued yes. Same thing, right? NOT object to?

MOTION: Mr. Carter moves the Conservation Commission NOT object to NH DOT's Project 43138, NH DES Dredge and Fill Permit to rehabilitate the Bowman Brook culvert underneath NH Route 114. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

New Business:

Clean-up at Hockman Conservation Area: Chair Grogan said okay. Kathleen, a busy night for you. [laughter] Can you tell us about the cleanup on Hockman Conservation Area? Ms. Ports said Piscataquog Land Conservancy does an annual monitoring where they hold conservation easements on

town-owned properties. They were out this fall at the Hockman Preserve. That one is between the Merrimack River and the railroad tracks and the Heritage Trails—so down on the waterfront. It's somewhat secluded, and so it occasionally attracts homeless encampments. They noticed some existing tents when they were there. So, we worked with the Police Department to make sure the site was vacant. Then once it was, there was a need to have the tents removed. DPW was not comfortable doing that removal because of some existing materials that they observed while they were out in the field. So, we needed to hire a cleanup company. We wanted to get it done before the snow fell. DPW is suggesting that we split the cost with them. If that's the case, then we would need an authorization to expend \$1,214.57 of the conservation funds to pay the contractor for the cleanup services at Hockman. What they did was remove all the materials and then they do what's called raking—just to look for any fine metal or needles. We felt like that was warranted for this location. There's actually quite a bit of public traffic down to the river through that area. Chair Grogan asked are there any questions for Kathleen on that?

MOTION: Ms. Jones motions to split the cost with DPW and authorize the expenditure of \$1,214.57 of the Conservation funds to pay Servpro for the cleanup services at Hockman Conservation area. Ms. Evans seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

ConCom Logo Contest: Chair Grogan said next is the ConCom logo contest. How exciting is that?! Kathleen. Ms. Ports said I'm excited about this. I've been talking about this a little bit. I'm hoping that you share my enthusiasm and desire for us to have a logo. One of the things that we've identified with PLC is how outdated some of our signs are that still name BLT. PLC has a very clear visible logo, and sometimes they have big signs. So, instead of having all kinds of signs everywhere, I've suggested with them that we come up with a sign that has both organizations on it. I just felt like it would be really nice if we had a logo that we could add that identified the Conservation Commission specifically. So, I'm just looking for any thoughts or edits to the invitation here and the entry form. Then, I guess, just your general support to sort of run with it. I was thinking it would be nice if we had the results before the next meeting, which is actually a workshop. But that would really only give about 3 weeks for the contestants. So, I wasn't sure if that would be enough time. I would also be interested in hearing your thoughts on deadlines. Mr. Clough said I don't think that's enough time. Ms. Ports said okay. So, we could go to the 28th. That would be 4 and a half weeks. Maybe we need more time than that—like 6 weeks? My thought was that we will share this with the schools. Post it in a few public areas. Put it out on social media. Try to recruit as many interested people. Mr. Carter asked what does the winning logo get? Ms. Ports answered they get acknowledgement that their... Chair Grogan added they get their logo up on the... Ms. Ports continued yes. Their visibility, really, right? Mr. Carter added their likeness, because we can make changes. Chair Grogan said it's all we can afford right now. [laughter] Mr. Carter said it's only their likeness of their logo, because we have the right to make the adjustments as needed. Ms. Ports said yes, we do. Ms. Evans asked have we specified what we want on the logo? Or are we leaving that up to the contestants? Are we going with Bedford Conservation Commission, or? Ms. Ports answered I would be curious to hear what you guys think. It's kind of a mouthful. Mr. Clough added Con Comm is easier. Ms. Ports said yes, Con Comm. We can do BCC. I was kind of thinking we could see what they came up with, but, yes, that's something to consider. If you guys have a preference, I think we should clarify that in the requirements for the entries. Ms. Jones said I think that that would be—where it says entry—should include original drawing graphic image may include image, words, or letters. Then there could be the caveat of maybe some variation of the name. That way it leaves the flexibility to the artist. But it mandates the fact that it needs to actually say BCC or Con Com, or Bedford Conservation Commission. Ms. Ports said okay. So, what I could do is say entry should be an original drawing or graphic—that's meant to be original graphic image as well—including the name, or some

variation of the name of the organization. Ms. Hebert added you could put it in quotations, Bedford Conservation Commission, and then ... run with it. Ms. Ports said yes. Mr. Carter said I'd like to see our ... Ms. Jones asked you want your Cub? Mr. Carter said no – yes! [laughter] We're working on the Cub logo right now. That's a plight in itself. Maybe our Mission Statement? Ms. Ports asked do you mean the motto? Mr. Carter replied, the motto—Keeping Bedford Clean. Chair Grogan said yes, that! I was going to say—not that whole thing. [laughter] Ms. Ports added so what I did on the next page was I kind of included some Conservation Commission facts as a way of giving them some ideas. I did include that—or did I—I thought I did. No, maybe I didn't. Okay. We could add that. Just add the motto? Ms. Hebert asked do you have it in the gray, well...? Ms. Ports said yes. It is kind of in the gray part too to Keep Bedford Beautiful—motto. Chair Grogan said Keeping Bedford Beautiful, yes. Mr. Carter added it doesn't have to be round, either. Ms. Ports agreed no. Any shape. Mr. Carter said we should get this out. I'm sure there's some clubs at the High School that would love to grab this and get something going. Because I know they're very in depth. Maybe reaching out to the Lions—and stuff like that—clubs. They're really big at doing contests and getting involved. I know they're involved with Cub Days—to get the kids interested to get some monetary parts for their club to get them out to clean Bedford. Ms. Donovan added I'm going to mention it on Thursday at the Bedford Women's Club general meeting. Ms. Ports asked when did you want to extend the deadline to? Ms. Ports asked what do you guys think? Do you think 6 weeks is enough? Or do you want ... Ms. Jones added like prior to the March meeting? Ms. Ports answered yes. We could do that—like the Wednesday before the March meeting? [Board agrees] Mr. Carter said we could always look at it during our workshop if any of them have come in—grab the top three or something like that? Ms. Ports said yes. Ms. Jones asked is the workshop is the 22nd? Ms. Ports said yes. Chair Grogan said we'll need a motion to approve the logo contest. Ms. Ports replied we probably don't actually need a motion. I'm sorry. Chair Grogan said okay. Ms. Ports said this was just to make sure you guys were good with going forward. Ms. Carter said allowing the Planning Department to advertise this in all the social media and whatever they need to do to get this going. Ms. Hebert said, and we can send you the updated form and share with your friends and any artists that you might know; the Craftworkers Guild—anyone who might be interested.

Conservation Area Monitoring Update: Ms. Ports said the town has several categories of conservation lands. We have lands that we own where PLC holds an easement. We have lands that have some restrictions on them—either through a deed or a conservation easement. We have some conservation lands that don't have any restrictions. We have private lands where we hold a conservation easement on them. All of these lands warrant monitoring, at least periodically. Most of them were last monitored in 2017. So, getting us caught up on that monitoring effort and familiarizing myself with the properties that are under our purview, I completed the monitoring this year on 18 properties. I had some help, and I want to acknowledge those people. Pat, our Chair, Pat Grogan joined me on a few properties. A PLC volunteer, Dave Butler, who is a Bedford resident, came out. My son, Sam, came out, and so did Charlie Fairman. He's a Planning Board member. He has a Conservation area right behind his house that you probably had no idea was there. Ms. Donovan said I had no idea until I was reading the reports this afternoon. I'm going to ask Charlie if I can go and have a look at it! [laughter] Ms. Ports continued in general, let's start with the private properties with Town-held conservation easements. I did not inspect Greenfield Farms. We recently did a pretty extensive effort out there getting compliance on some encroachments. I'm hoping to actually try to get out there this winter just to kind of check on things. If not, then next winter. There were two other properties that have some conservation easements on them: Dunlap Woods and Dunlap Place, and Chesterfield Road is part of an easement area related to Powder Hill. I didn't get to all of those properties. In general, things are in great shape, and there's a little bit of garbage along the waterfront at the PSNH property, which is along the Heritage Trail, where the Pumping Station is. I have written to them and notified them hoping somebody will get back to me.

The property at Powder Hill is a private residence. Their conservation easement looked great, but they had a patch of Japanese Knotweed in their backyard, which I thought was odd. So, I sent them some information on controlling that area. I think that's mostly it. The other major effort that could be revisited in the future on many of these is just to post. We have "Land Protected by the Conservation Commission" signs. A lot of these areas don't have those signs. So, that's something we could do in the future as we're doing future monitoring, or if you guys need a weekend task.

Mr. Carter asked Kathleen, could you just, when it comes to these property names, could you kind of parentheses next to them list how many acres or what the size of the parcel is? Ms. Ports asked now? Mr. Carter answered no. Not right now. In the future. Ms. Ports said yes. Mr. Carter said you've got enough homework. I won't give you some right now on the spot. Ms. Ports said I do have a list. I'm trying to think if it's ... Mr. Carter said it just comes down to how big it is and how much attention do we need, or do we really need to put a sign there, when it's half an acre. Is there really a need? I think the ones that are larger in status should really have signage. The rest—they can just go along the way they are without anything. But just knowing how many acres or how large the parcel is—that would be immensely—we could rank them by size down to what we—for actions down the road here. Something that's a little bit larger needs more attention than maybe the smaller ones that need just a drive by to see how everything looks. Ms. Ports said yes. Got it. Mr. Carter continued then we can assign, if people want to take that as a charge, to just stop by and take a quick look to make sure everything is fine there. Ms. Ports agrees. Ms. Hebert said in the past, the Commission hired Ron Klemarczyk to do Greenfield Farms, and it was an enormous undertaking just because of the area and the number of residential properties that abut the Conservation area. Mr. Carter said monitoring can take up a lot of your time. [Board agrees] Ms. Ports continued a lot of that has been posted since. So, I'm hoping that those boundaries are pretty clearly marked. Let's see. On the Town-owned Conservation Areas—same thing. A lot of these are in really good shape. If anything, there might be some yard debris over the property boundaries. A lot of these are not marked, necessarily—either the perimeter or the property itself. We will address that in our next discussion. Conservation Areas with PLC-held easements: They completed all their monitoring last year, and I received their list of potential action items. So, what they try to do is notify us of issues that might be in conflict with the conservation easement. There are very few issues right now. The list last year was huge. Karen did a great job working with DPW to get a lot of those issues fixed. We are finalizing that now with the blazing and the monument replacement that we authorized last fall. We're in really good shape on these properties. There are a few encroachments here and there, and just some communication that needs to happen. But other than that, I think we're in a much better place.

Mr. Carter asked on the Bedford Village Common—that's where the bandstand is. I know there's always parking for events because I go to these events. What does it mean by "no public parking?" As long as they don't block the emergency—I believe they're allowed to park because, obviously, they allow the people that are—the bands. Ms. Ports replied the emergency access is blocked off, and it's unlocked and opened when the bands are coming to set up. The person who normally coordinates that was out sick a lot this summer. So, some of the communication broke down and the gate wasn't closed. People pulled in and parked on the road. Mr. Carter said I know. I was too. Ms. Ports said that's technically not allowed by the conservation easement. Mr. Carter said okay. Then there should be some signage there to state that—which I don't think there is. Ms. Ports said no. But normally the gate is closed once the band sets up, and it's not an issue. But there were a couple of times this summer where that didn't happen. Mr. Carter said I'm at those Wednesday night events, and I understand. It's easy access for those handicapped accessible to park there versus parking in the parking lot and walking down the grade to get down to the Common. Ms. Ports said yes. Mr. Carter said when I saw that, I said, well,

that's interesting. Ms. Ports said that's more of a Parks and Recreation Department issue. They administer that program. I did communicate with them. Mr. Carter said on the Marston Property, when it comes to debris, is that along Wallace Road? Ms. Ports answered yes. Mr. Clough said it's a lot of debris. Ms. Ports said North of the existing barn that's still standing, there's an old structure that collapsed. Mr. Carter said I thought we were looking at possibly discussing that with the Fire Department, to do a controlled burn. Ms. Ports said yes. They're not interested. Mr. Carter said they're not interested. So, that means for us to get in there and remove that. Ms. Ports said most of it is old wood, and there are some metal parts. I didn't see—and Phase One didn't identify any concerns about hazardous materials. So, I will work with either DPW or another contractor to do that work. That will probably... Mr. Carter suggested just to maybe get a dumpster in and get it cleaned up. Mr. Clough added there might be some hazardous animals in there. [laughter] Mr. Carter added remains of some hazardous animals. Ms. Ports said in the Spring, I'll probably bring you a request for expenditure of funds to get that cleaned up. But we did a little preliminary work on that before we closed, and I don't think it will be more than a couple thousand dollars. Mr. Carter asked are we able to turn that into a parking area once we clean it up? Ms. Ports answered yes. We prepared a preliminary agreement on what we wanted some options to do out on that property, including some trails and some parking. So that area... Mr. Carter said that would be a perfect area to park, because I believe the start of a trail was just on the other side of that. There were some downed trees that, once they were removed, would allow us access to that road—woods road that we were walking on. Okay. Thank you. And where are those minor encroachments? Ms. Ports answered there's one to the North of the property. There are a very few feet of fencing over the property line. When the surveyors were out there, they encountered the property owner, and he said oh, I'll take it down. So, I'll follow up with him. Then at the very Southern end, there are these two fingers, and there's one property that's growing some grass beyond their property boundary—lawn, not grass as in.... Mr. Carter said they're keeping up a lawn. Ms. Ports said yes. They are maintaining a lawn beyond their property boundary. So, both minor. Mr. Carter said okay. Thank you. Ms. Ports replied you're welcome. So, all the monitoring reports are in the folder. If you want to take a look at them, if you have questions, if there's a property you want to go look at, I'm happy to give you a little tour. Ms. Donovan asked can I just thank Kathleen—the amount of work she's done on this. Chair Grogan agreed—oh, I know! I tell her all the time. She's amazing. Ms. Hebert said it is a tremendous amount of work. A lot of field work. A lot of days out in the field, and then having to consolidate all that information back in the office. It's really great for the Town to have a handle on what's out there and the condition of all the lands.

Mr. Clough said there is an electronic map that shows all these properties somewhere. Ms. Ports said we have, in the Google Drive that I link you guys to for the meeting, there's a folder in there with an atlas. Hold on here. There it is. Some time ago, we worked with the Southern NH Planning Commission. They created this binder and map. For each parcel you see here, there's an individual map on an aerial photograph that shows you the boundaries of that property and whether it has a conservation easement on it. I am in the process of working with Brandon to update this to add some additional properties, and to clarify in the GIS System at the State. So, for example, at the State—see this dark green line here? Those parcels are not all conservation easements. It's just a narrow area on that land. We're working on updating to clarify that it's this dark green line that's the conservation easement—not the properties themselves. So, just getting a little bit of refinement. There are a bunch of properties that are not on here. Not a bunch, but there are a few. We're working on that. Then, eventually, that will just be all in one place so you can access it and see it. Ms. Hebert added it is a layer on the GIS, the parcel viewer. You can go to the Town's GIS parcel viewer and that is the Town's online GIS mapping system. There is a Conservation Lands layer on that. Ms. Ports said yes. There's Bedford Conservation Lands, and then these categories will click up as different layers on the parcels. We need to add a few. Then

there's another Easement layer, I believe, separate that might have some Conservation information in it as well, for those narrower pieces. Okay. So, naming conventions.

Naming Conservation Areas and the Marston Property: Through this process of monitoring and learning what the differentiations were between all the different types of properties that we own, and also because we have recently purchased the Marston property and we need to officially name it. I was looking at what protocol do we use to name things and does everything have a name or need a name. So, on this, actually I did include the acreages. You can see here, for example, the Ash Bog Conservation Area—that's sort of its official name. But Bracken Circle is basically a common space within the Bracken Circle Development. It's only 3.6 acres, but it is town-owned, and it does have some deed restrictions on it. It's not marked in any way, out in the field, that it's town lands. So, I guess the question is do we want some sort-of name or sign or maybe just the little property boundaries? They're little property signs this big, you know, that can go around the perimeter of the property. Otherwise, on many of our Conservation lands, we have a standardized large brown sign with yellow lettering that identifies the name of the property. So, that would be another option. We could put a list of those parcels that need property names onto the project list that we developed for service projects. So, there's sort-of two questions here. Do we want a protocol for naming properties? I just put together some thoughts on what that would look like. Or even some criteria. Is there a minimum size? Or maybe we just use the size to help us prioritize? Mr. Carter asked do many of these, like does Ash Bog have a trailhead? Ms. Ports answered Ash Bog has two trail heads. It has a sign actually. Anything that's got an unofficial name, does not have a sign. Ms. Jones said I feel like uniformity would help, especially if there's any question of whether that property is town-owned or not and make it much more evident to anybody who's out on any of the properties. So that they don't feel uncomfortable. I know I've only been here about 4 years. I still have no idea where I am half the time. So, I feel like uniformity of signage would help. I know that a lot of residents, obviously, they've been here forever. It won't be a problem for them, but when I visited other towns, that uniformity of signage has definitely been beneficial for me not getting lost or knowing where I'm at. So, for me, for Ash Bog, it's such a large area. Yes. But then you've got these smaller areas. To me, it should still be designated Ash Bog Conservation Area. But then, obviously, we have to debate whether it's one big sign and then those property signs later on. That's just my personal opinion. Ms. Ports said so just so you're clear, Bracken Circle is not a part of Ash Bog. Ms. Jones said oh, I'm sorry. Ms. Ports continued what I tried to do was show you which ones are officially names and have signs. Ms. Jones said oh, I'm sorry. I misinterpreted that as those being a sub-group. Ms. Ports said I'm sorry. That's not clear. So, anything in the unofficial name is its own property. It just doesn't have signage on it. Mr. Carter said well, once we have a logo, that will make our life just a little bit easier. We can standardize a 12 by 24 sign for all the ones that are properly named. Then, basically, logo, and it will say Ash Bog Conservation Area. Then it will have our logo right there, so now we know that that's a Bedford Conservation Commission... Ms. Evans said I like calling them the Conservation Area. I think it makes it very clear what the purpose of the area is—even when there are trails in it. Mr. Carter said obviously, on the Marston property, I think—it's Marcia Marston, right? Making that the Marcia Marston Conservation Area. Ms. Hebert said I think the name that PLC was looking at was the Marston Dunlap Wildlife Sanctuary. Chair Grogan asked what's the Dunlap? Ms. Hebert replied the Dunlap, I know Marcia Marston is very proud of her Dunlap heritage. So, I would recommend keeping Dunlap in there. Chair Grogan said I like that name. Mr. Carter said I don't know if I want to consider the 46 acres as a wildlife sanctuary, because I know what PLC's doing, where they have the other hundred plus acres and eventually the other 72 acres. Definitely, that is a wildlife sanctuary. That really falls into that. Ms. Hebert suggested maybe the Marston Dunlap Conservation Area. Mr. Carter agreed yes. That would be fine. They're going to be right across from each other anyway. Ms. Ports said yes. That gives it a little bit of distinction from the PLC lands. Mr. Carter asked is PLC going to be doing any signage up

there? Ms. Ports replied oh yes. [laughter] Ms. Grogan said I had someone ask me if hunting would be allowed up there. Mr. Carter replied only in the cartoons. [laughter] Ms. Ports said well the conservation easement doesn't allow it. Ms. Jones said based on your staff recommendation Issue 1, where you have the list of steps, we could go forward with naming it. For example, Bracken Circle—would we name it Bracken Circle Conservation Area? Is that the line of thought? Mr. Carter replied I just think the size of it, sometimes, it's a small parcel that really doesn't denote that. Obviously, Ash Bog—160 acres. Ms. Jones continued what about McQuaid Brook Area? That's an unofficial name. Mr. Carter said well, yes. That's 330 acres. Wow. Ms. Jones said I guess I'm just trying to get the line of thought. Mr. Carter replied when I was looking at this and going over this, I would think this would be a great thing to discuss during our workshop. [Board agrees] Let's everybody review this. Let's make this one of our workshop things, because we can talk about this for the next 45 to an hour about how we want to do this. But I think that would be best if we discuss this during our workshop next month. Then we can come up—everybody knows what we're looking at, and if we want to say we want to give it a proper property name and then an unofficial name, then we can go about and... I would encourage everyone to rank these 1-5, or 1-3 I should say, about importance of what needs to be on that property to recognize it as a Conservation Area. That's all. I look at Marston—everyone's going to see that's a Conservation Area because it's right along Wallace Road. At least one, if not two, signs on that coming each way. One on each way coming on Wallace Road. Let's look at some of this and say, what would you consider this to be and what would we need to do that. Because once we do that and we classify it, then we can have the Planning Department put together some pricing about different kinds of signs, different ways of doing this kind of thing. And then we know a direction that we're going with this when it comes to... Ms. Ports said yes. I can do some research on some of these properties and just look at the deeds to make sure there wasn't anything stipulated in terms of naming the property. Mr. Carter added actually, if this goes online, you can put what can be done and what can't be done on each of those properties. We might be able to note that on the sign: A, B, or C, these are certain things. Then they know they can go to and say... you talk about hunting, you know? Making sure that they're aware that hunting is not allowed on this property. It just makes it easier for us to look at this, where most of us only got this packet just a couple days ago. It just makes it easier for us to put thoughts in mind. When we have our workshop next month, we can have clear thoughts and run right through it. That's just my opinion. Ms. Ports said okay.

Eagle Scout Project at Van Loan Preserve: Chair Grogan said so Kathleen—the Eagle Scout Project on the Van Loan property. Ms. Ports said I received a request from Andrew Deml. I think that's how he pronounces his last name. He would like to post emergency location numbers on the trail system out at Van Loan. There was a similar project done out at Pulpit Rock, and it actually has been used to aid an individual, I think, who injured their leg or foot. So, I told Andrew that I would make sure that you guys thought this was a good plan to move forward, and then suggested that he come back in March to give us a presentation. There's a lot of signage out there at the trail junctions that have trail names and arrows that are in disrepair. I also asked him if he would be willing to replace all those signs for us. He said yes. So, he would like to do both. He and I were talking about potentially doing metal signs. I'm going to talk to the DPW to find out if that's a sign they can fabricate for us. Then we can make a decision, and maybe that's something we can talk about, too, at the next meeting in terms of what materials we want to be using. He and I discussed coming up with a template, doing the cost estimating. He could do the fundraising to pay for the signs. They shouldn't be too expensive if they're metal. If you guys are good with that proposal, then I will ask Andrew to come back in March. Mr. Clough asked so Andrew's main work would be to install the posts for these signs? Ms. Ports replied no. Mostly he would be developing a first responder location system. I believe that requires some coordination with the Police Department and the Fire Department. There would be codes with a scan—QR code, I think,

on the trees, and locators. That would, if someone was injured and they called 911, they can provide that information to identify specifically where they are on the property. So, he would be doing that, and then also updating some of the junction signs that are in disrepair. I don't know. Some of those are on trees. Some of those might be on posts. I think, mostly, it's really just the signs themselves that need to be replaced. Chair Grogan asked now do we need a motion for having him back to the meeting? Ms. Ports indicated no. Mr. Clough asked how many locations is he thinking? Ms. Ports replied I don't know. That would be something he would present to us in March. Mr. Clough said okay.

Quarterly Programming – Next up - Bedford Big Trees Program: Chair Grogan asked Kathleen, do you want to talk to us about the Big Trees Program? Ms. Ports said yes. After the BioBlitz last year in the Fall, I was thinking about what would be a fun winter activity. The State of New Hampshire has a Big Trees Program. The largest tree, both in girth and height, of every species, native and non-native in the State is identified through this program. There are also categories by county. I thought it would be really fun to get families or people who are interested to get out on our Town Conservation Lands. In the winter, you can get off route and follow your tracks back to the trail and explore and identify where do we have big trees in the Town of Bedford. As it turns out, we are about to be crowned the Red Maple State Champion. It's located at the Joppa Hill Farm. Mike Gagnon is a Cooperative Extension Forrester, and he lives in Bedford. I've asked him to give us an introduction to the program and then do a winter tree identification class. So, we're going to run that with the Library in March. I've been thinking about maybe setting a goal of having quarterly programs that we're either sponsoring or co-sponsoring to get people out on Conservation lands, or to provide some sort of education on local resources and issues—whether it's beavers or turtle crossings or things like that. So, I would love your ideas and thoughts on that. If we want to have a program or a set number or type of events that we sponsor every year, and we stick with those? Or do we just want to do things opportunistically? I'm pursuing the things that I get excited about, but I want you guys to tell me what you're excited about so we can consider that as well. Mr. Carter commented actually I've had an email to the Town because of Cub Day, of geocaching—doing stuff like that—as part of Cub Day. I'm not into geocaching so I'm trying to—is that they would put something somewhere and people would have to go find it. But part of it would be cleaning up that area. Ms. Ports said yes. That's a great idea. Chair Grogan commented I like it. Mr. Carter continued it's sitting in my email here somewhere, and I have to go find it. But I was going to bring that up down the road here about if that's something that might get people—if there's an award or, I guess it's a reward—is it usually money? Ms. Jones said no. Usually it's like a, well it depends on what kind of, sometimes it's a stamp. Sometimes it's a small object. You take an object or put an object in it. It depends on the complexity of the geocaching. Ms. Ports added sometimes there's a little logbook and you sign that you were there. Mr. Clough said a lot of people use ammo cans, because they're waterproof. Mr. Carter said okay. Well, again, I'm not into geocaching. [laughter] Chair Grogan said me either. Ms. Jones said it's fun. Mr. Carter said I'm trying to figure out what bank you do that through, you know, the geocaching part of it. [laughter] Mr. Clough said there's a geocaching merit badge. Mr. Carter said oh. Okay. I had that email, and I was going to try to implement that possibly into the April Cub Cleanup Day. Ms. Ports added there are a few Town properties that could use some cleanup. So, maybe we could target... Mr. Carter added, and I hear groups really look for this, and they want to go out and we'll give them a platform to do it. Ms. Ports said I think the geocaching is a great idea. I like the idea of combining getting people out and out into the properties. So, it's a good one. Mr. Carter said I'll forward that email to you so we can start that conversation. Ms. Ports said okay. So, if you guys want to attend the training, just sign up through the Library. It's unlimited. I think what we're going to do with the Library is try to have like a booklet for the kids so that when they go out to a property, they can have a stamp. So, if you get to so many different properties, then they could come back to the Library and get a prize. We're talking about like a Junior Ranger Program kind of thing. Then

I need to set up some sort of system where people can send me the information that they've collected about their big trees. Then, ultimately, what I'm hoping is that we would have, for the Town lands, the biggest tree of each species on our Town lands. Chair Grogan asked any questions about our trees? Ms. Donovan said I'm looking forward to learning what the trees are. Mr. Handy said I had a comment with regard to the geocaching, which is kind of a variations, like land navigation, where you have fixed points in the woods wherever. And you have directions on how to get there. Usually it's a compass direction, an azimuth, and a pace count. You can also do it with a terrain association, which really adds the fun to it because, if you have a topographical map, and you've got these points you're trying to find, sometimes you can draw out the distance and the azimuth on your map and map it out that way and use a pace count and that compass direction to get there. Or use the terrain. So, you may have a ridge or a stream, and you'll see that on the map. So, to save time or to have the challenge, you just follow these terrains. It adds a lot of fun. Chair Grogan said that sounds like fun. Okay, you're in charge of that! [laughter] Mr. Handy replied oh. I don't know how to do it, though! [laughter] Chair Grogan said you sound like you do. Mr. Handy said well I have done a little bit of it for the military. Ms. Ports asked what did you call it? Mr. Handy said it was called Land Navigation. But that's what we called it back then. So, it's basically pace counting... Chair Grogan said it sounds like that's making it fun. Yes. Mr. Handy continued, and you'd have a series of points you have to find—kind of like the geocaching—and you can have a prize at the end. It's fun. Ms. Ports said we could have a set course on one property. I think learning to use a compass is a great skill for everybody to have. Mr. Handy said yes. And it gets them off the beaten path. Ms. Ports agreed right. That's where you discover, wow—look at this tree that nobody has seen before. Mr. Handy said right. Ms. Jones said you can have a more complex one for older—adults and high school, but then, for example, Beaver Brook Association, they have a much more elementary plan for younger children, where you might not necessarily be using a compass, but you're using the maps and you're using a lot of landmarks to navigate to those places. There are clues that they're giving you that's a little more appropriate for younger children. So, you could have both levels of complexities. Chair Grogan said okay. You're in charge of it! [laughter] How are we doing? Are we good with that? Ms. Ports said yes.

Old Business

Eagle Scout Project at Ash Bog: Chair Grogan asked so you want to tell us about the kayak dock, the Eagle Scout project? Ms. Ports said I met with the State and the Eagle Scout about putting a little dock on Ash Bog, and the State said that that is not something they would authorize. It's not a water body that's intended for that use. So, I have followed up with the Eagle Scout and given him several additional suggestions. I have not heard anything back. Chair Grogan said oh. Too bad! Mr. Clough said so they won't allow any access for kayaking? Ms. Ports said you could put a kayak in there. You could walk to the edge of the water and launch a kayak, but no structures. Mr. Clough said interesting. Is there an RSA that addresses that? Ms. Ports said I think it has to do with the definition of water bodies vs. wetlands and what their expected uses are. Mr. Clough said interesting. Mr. Carter said that's more of a conservation more than it has anything to do with state legislation to say that you can't do that. Mr. Clough said yes. I'm just curious. Ms. Ports said I can look at my notes. I might have written something down. Mr. Clough said okay.

Status of Monument Replacement and Blazing on Conservation Lands: Chair Grogan asked how about the status of the monument replacement and blazing on the Conservation Lands? Ms. Ports said all the monument replacement work is done, and we had the contractor prepare what we're calling a Survey Update. He took the original surveys that we had on all those properties and did little bubbles that show what was relocated or what was reset. So, we have that data that's been shared back to PLC for their

monitors. In the process of monitoring this year, they've identified a few more monuments they would like. So, we have some budget remaining with the contractor, and so they and I are working through prioritizing. A lot of the monuments that the volunteers couldn't find were there. They just needed to be relocated, because they got buried by debris and stuff. So, at a minimum, I think that's what we will ask them to do is to try to just relocate those monuments. I'm hoping that they're there. It's just like 2 or 3. Two different properties, like 2 on each. Hopefully they're there, and if not, then we'll look at what additional funds or we'll wait for another couple years until we have more work that needs to be done at one time. Then blazing is done at Sebbins Pond, and the marks have been cut on the trees at Pulpit. But we need a certain temperature and drying period before they can be painted. So, hopefully this month that will still happen.

GIS Trail Maps: Chair Grogan said okay. And our mapping on our website, GIS? Ms. Ports said I don't have much to update. I'm meeting with the GIS coordinator tomorrow, and sort of working out my list of things that I'd like to have done and coming up with a schedule and priorities. He's very busy so, he's got to fit this in between different other priorities he has.

Chubbuck Road: Chair Grogan said and Bill, update us on the Chubbuck Road Project? Mr. Carter said there is no update at this present time. We're continuing to work with that as we work through.

High School Ecological Program: Chair Grogan said and the High School Ecological Program, Kathleen? Ms. Ports said yes. I reached out to the teacher, and I have not heard when they're expecting to launch that program. But probably not until Spring. I'm thinking like April-May, when it's not snowing. I'm not sure. Yes. So, nothing.

Cub Cleanup Day: Mr. Carter said I do have an update as part of old business, the Cub Cleanup Day. Ms. Ports said yes. I'm sorry that I failed to put that on there. Chair Grogan said oh. Go ahead. Mr. Carter said April 16th, 2022, 9-1 will be the Second Annual Spring Cub Cleanup Day. Ms. Hebert asked is that Earth Day? Ms. Ports said it's usually the 22nd. Mr. Carter said it's usually the week after. It happens to be, Easter's on the 17th this year, but that is still going to make it a great weekend to do that. The logo is, I am working with a local business that is taking my Power Point rendition and turning it into an actual logo. From there we'll be able to start our signs and also producing T-shirts. We should have some day glow, either orange or yellow Cub Cleanup Day T-shirts that will be available. But we're working through that right now to get that logo proper. I just took a bunch of things off Power Point and put them together to make the logo, and so I'm working with a company in Town, and they are going to turn it into an official logo that we can use with any of the promotions when it comes to Cub Cleanup Day. Ms. Ports said we do have a few areas that could use some cleanup on town-own lands. So, if as a group, we want to organize a couple of cleanups or split up into parties, I can prepare a list for you guys. It would be good to have a presence out there. Mr. Carter said we won't be seeing too much of that roadside trash after Saturday. Ms. Ports said oh, I heard! I hope we get a big storm. Mr. Carter said it's a possibility of 6 to 10 inches of snow. That's why I'm saying you won't be seeing too much of the roadside trash. It will be hidden until Spring. Mr. Handy said so winter all year round. That's what we're praying for.

Other Business

Previously reviewed permits and variances - Arner Variance: Chair Grogan said okay. So, Kathleen, update on previously reviewed permits and variances. Ms. Ports said okay. Just really quickly the Arner Variance was approved by the Zoning Board, and in response to the comments from the Conservation

Commission, they did move the pool closer to the house and achieved, I believe, it was 38 feet from the wetland's setback. Mr. Carter said I thought they said 35? Ms. Ports said well, they had 33 or 30, and we asked them for 35 and they went further. They got it further—38 feet. Mr. Carter said oh great. Excellent! Ms. Ports added and they were slipping out the runoff to a rain garden. So, everything you had asked for, they addressed.

Trail Stewardship Program Update: Ms. Ports said Trail Stewardship Program Update... I have about 16 individuals who have responded and are ready to meet. And a wide range of interest from maintaining trails to helping develop standards—get out there and do some work and repair. Mr. Carter said I know I didn't mention anything about Chubbuck Road, no update, but I would think that part of the trail stewardship would be that Chubbuck Road area when it comes to the trails. That will be the first start, because right now we're in the middle of skiing and I'm sure they're using a lot of that area for skiing, and once they get rolling on the trail stewardship that will be part of that—working with them. Ms. Ports said yes. The Spring Hill parcel that is—how do you characterize that? Would that be west of the landfill—actually has a trail on it. Mr. Carter said North. Ms. Ports continued that's not mapped or anything. So, there's definitely opportunities there to expand the trail system. And several people expressed interest in that aspect of the work as well. So, that meeting will be scheduled in February. And I will let you guys know when that is in case you're interested.

February Workshop Topics: Ms. Ports continued February workshop topics: We just briefly talked about maybe talking about signs and sign standards. I didn't know if there were any other thoughts or requests. If we can't get to them in February, maybe let me know if there's something that we can plan for October. There's also potentially reviewing the Wetland Ordinance and looking at what other towns are doing—whether we need an update, a refinement, any additions or changes. As another topic, we could cover—I think I wrote down a couple other options. Mr. Carter said maybe give the Commission maybe the next ten days to get back to you about what they would like to see on that? Ms. Ports said yes. It's just an hour meeting so, we don't have a ton of time. Oh no, I'm sorry. Ms. Hebert said it's about a 2-hour meeting. Mr. Carter said yes. That involves dinner, right? It starts at 6? Ms. Hebert said yes. Mr. Carter said we have to be out of the Library by 8 o'clock? Ms. Hebert said yes. Ms. Ports said so, the meeting in February will be, I have not reserved the room. So, I will let you know the final location, but it will be generally, it's at the Library from 6 to 8. If we have two hours, we could potentially try to get through two topics, if you guys think that's realistic. Mr. Carter asked would it be better to move it to here if there was nothing else going on? It's a non-public, or is it a public meeting? Ms. Ports said it's public. Ms. Hebert said it's a public meeting, but it would be not televised. We could hold it here, if we need to. Mr. Carter said there's usually nothing...that's usually our night anyway. This might be a little bit easier of a way of doing that. It's not that far from the Library. So, it's not like you need that many breadcrumbs to get you back to the Library. Ms. Hebert said you could stay longer, too, if you met here. [laughter] Mr. Carter said well, we've got to watch out. Okay.

Announcements

Chair Grogan said so we have one announcement. But we already did talk about it. Ms. Jones said I just had quick question. Chair Grogan said oh. Sorry. Ms. Jones said that's okay. So, I think I'm the only person who probably observes the February vacation week for Massachusetts, and I was curious if that's ever been a factor that's come up in the past. Ms. Ports asked is that your vacation week? Ms. Jones said yes. And I don't know currently if I will be traveling. But, obviously, I would very much like to be at the workshops. Has it always been set in February? Mr. Carter said February and October have been our two workshops. Ms. Jones said okay. Just curious. Ms. Hebert said we could always change it up for

next year. Ms. Jones said well I just didn't—because I double-checked, and I think New Hampshire is the week before. So, I'll always, that will always fall on that, and I don't—I think last year we didn't—I don't remember if we had a workshop. Mr. Carter said well, it was Zoom. If it was anything, it would have been a Zoom workshop. Ms. Jones said okay. I just wanted to ask that. Mr. Carter said well, leave it up to the Chair. If she'd like to change the workshop to March and have a meeting in February. Ms. Jones said I'm only one person, you know. Chair Grogan said whatever you all want to do is fine with me. Ms. Jones said I just didn't know if it impacted anyone else or if it's just me. Mr. Carter said I have the fourth Tuesday of every month checked off for Conservation, so it doesn't matter if it's... Chair Grogan asked is everyone here in March, too? Ms. Jones said maybe it could be a consideration for next year, and we could try it? If it doesn't work for everybody, maybe we could switch it back the year after. I just wanted to bring it up since it was on there. Ms. Ports said we could definitely consider it for next year. That's totally an option. I guess if the dates have been published already. Is it too late this year maybe? Ms. Hebert said if the dates are published, sometimes the Civil Engineers that are working on getting plans out to the Planning Board and to you... they're like getting certain things. Ms. Jones said I definitely, again, it's not a priority for one person. Mr. Carter said and knowing that we're in a workshop in February, they have to be ready for March. Ms. Jones said well then keep it as is. Chair Grogan said okay. Mr. Carter said then again, we can work on that in our October workshop. Chair Grogan said there you go. Ms. Ports said so send me any other—so right now we're talking about signs and naming of the properties, and is there anything else that you guys, oh well, potentially review the logo submittals if we have any by then. Anything else that you guys want to address at that meeting? Mr. Carter said looks like we have a full plate going on right now, which is great. Chair Grogan added we have a lot. Mr. Carter added we have a lot of activity going on with the Conservation Commission, which, I don't think we've seen in many years. So, it's great to see the full Board working to 'Make Bedford Beautiful.' Chair Grogan said I know. It's amazing. Yes. Ms. Ports said maybe we can talk about, if there's time in February, we could just talk about other quarterly programs that you guys are excited about trying or are interested in.

Chair Grogan said we talked a little it about the Big Tree Program. The Conservation Commission in cooperation with the Bedford Public Library will offer an introduction to the State's Big Tree Program and Winter tree ID training. It's March 19th. Ms. Ports said yes. And you register through the Library's Calendar of Events.

Ms. Hebert said Kathleen also had a nice article in the Bedford Living Magazine promoting the Trail Stewardship Program. So, check that out if you get the Bedford Living Magazine. Chair Grogan said okay. Any other questions?

MOTION: Mr. Carter motions to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Jones seconds the motion. ALL IN FAVOR – unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Next meeting will be held February 22, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Forcier